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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/738,444	12/17/2003	Philip Wills	624-34814US (102.65)	8089

7590 05/23/2006  
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EXAMINER

SMITH, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence et al. (2794619) in view of Wittrisch (4660635).

Lawrence et al. disclose a cutting assembly for cutting a line comprising: an elongated housing 10 having an outer surface and an inner surface; rod 30; a first piston 28 slidably attached to the rod within the housing; a cutting blade 12 fixed on the rod wherein axial displacement of the piston along the rod urges the cutting blade toward the line; and head 30d.

Wittrisch teaches providing a downhole line-cutting device with a fishing or recovery head 19 having a particular shape.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to consider the Lawrence et al. head 30d a fishing head, noting the teachings of Wittrisch, in order to recover the tool. While Lawrence et al. do not specifically disclose head 30d as a fishing neck; one of ordinary skill would have noted the structural similarities between head 30d and Wittrisch head 19.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 6-12, 14-16, and 20-26 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see page 8, filed 29 December 2005, with respect to claims 6-12, 14-16, and 20-26 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 rejections of claims 6-12, 14-16, and 20-26 have been withdrawn.

The examiner contends the fishing neck concept is old and well known as well as the modification of any well tool for a fishing neck or head. Thus, one of ordinary skill would have considered any type structure that is usable for as a fishing grapple, intended or not, would have been obvious.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Chenault (3073388) shows a piston actuated cutter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-7034. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F, 9-4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Bagnell  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

MJS *MJS*  
2 February 2006